



Special points of interest:

- Employees receive rare life insurance open season
- Congress considers changes in Flexible Spending Account and TSP programs
- Management responds to employee rants & raves
- Union addresses Unfair Labor Practices

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Office of External Affairs (6XA)
 David Gray, Editor-in-Chief
 Donnell George, Managing Editor
 (214) 665-7418

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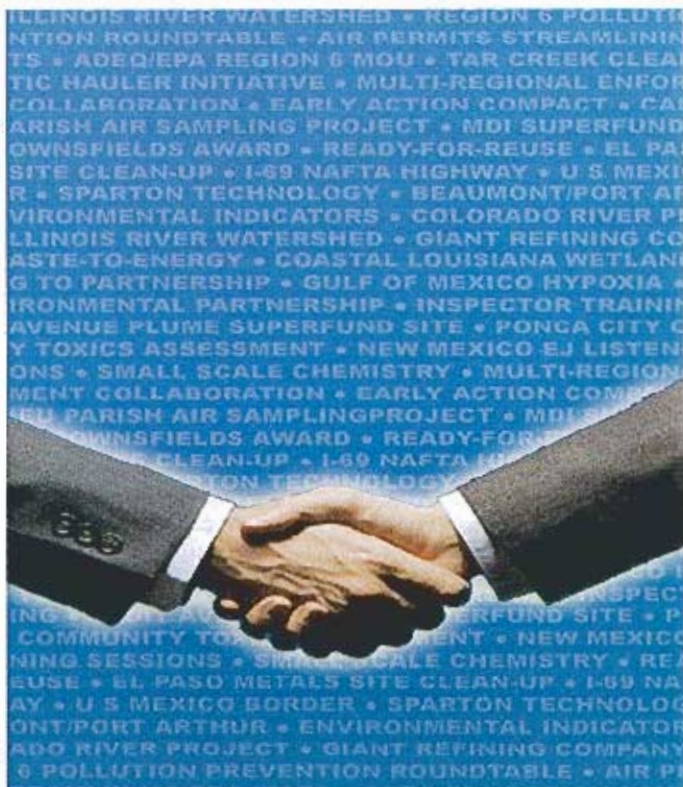
Front Lines Message from the Regional Administrator

A Road Called Collaboration Way

The mechanisms that propel our cars and trucks to a desired destination depend on many moving parts working together. In the same way, our work engages a complex array of participants representing all levels of government, private industry, and citizens working together to produce cooperative solutions. Driving this engine is the powerful incentive to achieve our mutual goals of clean air, safe water and better protected land. We in Region 6 understand that our mission has a profound human impact and that our efforts are enhanced significantly when we work collaboratively with our stakeholders and partners.

Cooperative efforts produce better solutions to complex issues because each participant has ownership in the process. This proven method allows those involved to jointly achieve their objectives to the degree that neither could achieve alone. We have shown that this works. We clearly demonstrated that we embrace that concept by the nearly 60 projects that were shared this summer with EPA Chief of Staff, Rich McKeown.

A few weeks ago, Administrator Mike Leavitt issued a report on major accomplishments for the first 200 days. Many of those demonstrate the benefits of collaborative efforts. Last month, the President signed the Executive Order to facilitate cooperative conservation. In it, he directs us along with our counterparts who oversee our nation's natural re-



sources and environment to promote a better way of relating cooperatively with our states, cities, tribes, and individuals.

I fully support the President's concept and challenge all of us to further the fine work we have already demonstrated to the public and our partners. Our goal should always be to ensure that the best interests of our stakeholders are properly considered, and that solutions to environmental matters benefit all of us and improve the quality of the lives of the people we serve.

Our role is vital. Let us continue moving forward together.